

MATERNITY HOMELESSNESS CASE STUDIES

CASE 1

Alison. 31 years old lives in a multi-occupancy house with five others. Top floor room. Partner lives on the other side of the city and is the sole carer for his elderly grandparent reliant on benefits.. Volatile on/off relationship. Alison works as a clearer earning minimum wage. Alison's mother lives in Southampton in one bedroom flat and is about to remarry. Alison does not get on with either her mother or her new partner and they are little support. Brother lives in Oxford.

Alison suffers from selective mutism which likely stems from her traumatic childhood which makes communication very challenging.

Alison does not feel safe in her flat and says that there are drug users renting other rooms in the house. Following an altercation between her boyfriend and someone else in the house a window was broken and Alison now faces eviction unless she repairs the damage but has no funds to do so.

Health Visitor and midwife agree this is totally unsuitable environment for mother and new baby. Alison and baby eventually placed with foster mother in New Forest for 6 months.

CASE 2

Kelly. 22 years old lives in Housing Association flat supported by social care and learning disability team. This is Kelly's second baby, the first removed as Kelly mixing with undesirable influences. No family support and only current support is the father of the who is an alcoholic. Kelly aware that she will not be able to keep this baby unless she disassociates herself from him,

Planning meeting at 38 weeks pregnant around housing as Kelly cannot take a baby back to her flat as it would be in breach of the terms of her lease. Alternative housing eventually found 5 days after the birth in a mother and baby unit.

CASE 3

Anna. 35 years old unbooked until very late in pregnancy. Sex worker and heroin user. Currently residing in boyfriend's flat which is squalid in the extreme. No home of her own. Supported by 3D project and local Church. No family support. Previous child aged 16 removed at birth.

Ambulance crew who picked Anna up to bring her into hospital for birth reported the squalid state of the flat.

Baby placed in foster care and Anna discharged from hospital 4 days after birth back to boyfriend's address.

CASE 4

Leah. 20 years old. Known to maternity services following birth of her first child, which was born in a local known drug den and removed at birth. Leah reported to be pregnant again by local street pastors and living in a skip behind Debenhams with her partner. Unable to locate to offer care and eventually found to be in Prison. On release from prison back on the streets and eventually presented for care when in labour. Baby removed. Self discharged.